

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

CONFERENCE CALL

August 3, 2006 Meeting

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Harkless

Notes: Erin Halton

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Navigation Problem in Lower Monumental Tailwater

Cindy Henriksen, COE, clarified the purpose for the unscheduled call: depth and navigation issues downstream from the Lower Monumental Dam have created issues for one of the barges. While in the navigation channel, the a barge was grounded during its move from upstream to down. Another tow, the Mary B, took soundings as it passed the area. The Mary B soundings showed the navigation lock sill had a depth of 11.2', with an assumed relative depth of 15'. The graphs on the website showed that the shallow spot at Ice Harbor had a relative depth of only 8'. Rich Hilt, Lower Monumental, helped clarify that there had been some dredging in the area, and the diagram on the website was shown demonstrating the current tailrace of 437.

COE proposed going to zero generation from midnight to 4 a.m. Friday to raise Ice Harbor pool by 1'. This would shift the current operation from a 437-438 to a 438-439 range. Henriksen noted that this would not cause a rise in gas levels. Paul Wagner, NOAA, expressed that more data to back up the necessity for the change in operations would have been helpful – it was suggested that the survey at Ice Harbor scheduled for later in August, could provide the desired data and be conducted sooner rather than later in the month.

NOAA accepted the proposed plan for resolving the navigational hazard. Russ Kiefer, ID; Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC; Cindy LeFleur, Washington; Tony Norris, Reclamation; and Dave Wills, USFWS; added that the proposal sounded like a reasonable solution. Scott Bettin, BPA, said that their only caveat to the proposal was if monitoring shows a need to adjust operations, the action agencies will do so. Oregon and Montana representatives were not on the TMT call. [Editors note: Ron Boyce of Oregon was contacted immediately following the call and did not object to the proposed operational solution.]

Next steps: COE will go to zero generation at midnight, and maintain for four hours. TMT will look forward to seeing the results of the Ice Harbor survey, and will stay in contact via email between now and the next meeting.

Next Meeting, August 9th OR 16th, 9am-noon

A face to face TMT meeting is scheduled to take place on either August 9th or 16th. Please regularly check the TMT web page for agendas and any scheduling changes.

Technical Management Team Conference Call

August 3, 2006

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The August 3 Technical Management Team conference call was chaired by Cindy Henriksen and facilitated by Robyn Harkless. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Cindy Henriksen at 503-808-3945.

2. Navigation Issue at Lower Monumental.

Henriksen said the purpose of this call is to discuss navigation issues in the Lower Monumental tailrace. Earlier this week, a barge was moving downstream out of the navigation lock and ran aground shortly downstream. The barge was in the navigation channel. Depth soundings were taken shortly after the grounding, and are attached to today's agenda on the TMT website. The sounding taken by a second barge found is that there is a shallow spot – about 11.2 feet – in the channel. That raises some concerns about both approach and departure from the lock near the downstream sill, Henriksen said.

Rich Hilt of the Corps said he had sent out an email on this incident, which included the soundings taken by the vessel *Mary B.* he noted that the actual depth of the shallow spot is 11.8 feet. How accurate is that measurement? Paul Wagner asked. It's based on a depth sounding, not a hydrographic survey, but we do have an issue at this location downstream of Lower Monumental dam, Hilt replied.

This area was not dredged this past winter? David Wills asked. I can't say definitively, but there was dredging in that area, said Hilt. We need to look further at that area, but again, it's clear we have an issue at this time.

We brought this to your attention because there is concern about this navigation hazard, Henriksen said; it is more of a concern this time of year than it would be at other times of the year. The Corps will be doing further soundings, but in the interim, we would like to recommend raising Ice Harbor pool by one foot. We don't know that this will completely resolve the issue, but we certainly don't want to have any further navigation issues, she said.

How would the one foot be filled, and over what time-frame? Wagner asked. The Corps' desire would be to do this as quickly as possible, Henriksen replied; I asked BPA if it would be feasible to go to zero generation at Ice Harbor from midnight to 4 am tonight. That would fill the project by almost a foot, she said; spill would continue. Would TDG be a concern if you do that? Russ Kiefer asked. We might see a small rise in TDG, but the project is only spilling 15 Kcfs, currently, Henriksen replied. There isn't much dilution with powerhouse water at the gauge, so I wouldn't expect to see much of an increase in TDG, Jim Adams added. It may be necessary to go to zero generation at Ice Harbor for a period tomorrow night as well, to finish filling the pool, Bettin noted.

After a few minutes of further discussion, it was agreed that this is primarily an issue for BPA. No TMT objections were raised to the Corps' proposed operation, because this is a safety issue. Wagner requested that the Corps accomplish the necessary survey work as soon as possible, to establish the degree of the hazard that exists. Perhaps it would be possible to mark the shallow area to warn vessels away, while maintaining MOP at Ice Harbor, he suggested.

It was agreed to revisit this topic at the next scheduled TMT meeting; the Corps will notify the TMT by email of any new developments.

**TMT Conference Call Participants
August 3, 2006**

Name	Affiliation
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Rich Hilt	COE
Dave Statler	NPT
Tony Norris	USBR
Cindy LeFleur	WDFW
Russ Kiefer	IDFG
David Wills	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAAF
Shane Scott	NWRP
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Scott Bettin	BPA

